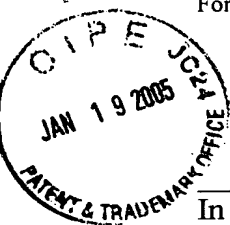


HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400



Docket No.: 10004991-1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Thomas D. Benson

Application No.: 10/004,296

Confirmation No.: 8164

Filed: October 31, 2001

Art Unit: 3627

For: AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR AND METHOD
OF INVENTORY MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Examiner: J. A. Fischetti

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.